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# Defending Europe in the 1990's--The New Divide of High Technology

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nology has an equalizing effect. Only cost slows the spread of high technology weapons. With this spread comes the spectre of nuclear (or biological) terrorism.

There is material of interest here to Army, Navy, and Air Force practitioners. Barnaby effectively explains the significance of the advances in computer technology. The reader is led to vantage points from which he can make his own assessments.

Barnaby advances the interesting idea that technology may lead to practical conventional deterrence. New technologies make defense much more cost-effective, indeed more obtainable, than offensive systems. Somehow there is a hint of a quest for technological "Maginot Lines." What is clear is that the tanker, the missileer, and the aircraft carrier proponent must continue to look for technological work-arounds on the broadest scale. Technology changes how warfare missions are carried out but not the mission itself.

There is an area about which Barnaby, a nuclear physicist, chooses to remain silent—biotechnology. It would seem that there is a parallel path where offense is incomparably more cost-effective than defense. Leaving aside the various manifestations of biological warfare, it just may be that "organic computing" may provide the size and capacity breakthrough needed to accomplish true robot warfare. The biotechnologists tell us that we are on the threshold of molecular-scale computers. These

technological changes may occur within the expected service life of present day aircraft carriers and manned bombers.

Buried in chapter six is an insightful criticism of American use of war games. Barnaby asserts that failure to consider human values has led in the past to exaggerated expectations from military approaches. That criticism might also be applied to the prognostications contained in *The Automated Battlefield*; however it is impossible to ignore the picture, hazy as it might be, of warfare in the computer age.

This book belongs on the professional military bookshelf and should be required reading for all involved in developing future force concepts and the structures to support them.

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Rallo, Joseph C. *Defending Europe in the 1990s—The New Divide of High Technology*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986. 136pp. \$18

Paul, Derek, ed. *Defending Europe: Options for Security*. Philadelphia, Pa.: Taylor and Francis, 1985. 351pp. \$18

Joseph C. Rallo aims to provide direction toward the feasibility of European political and economic union as a third superpower no longer grounded by American dominance. He seeks a security relationship in the European community with an enhanced role in NATO. He does not seek European union as a distinct

objective, favoring instead a "harmonization of member objectives" between governments and replacement of the outdated Common Agricultural Policy "by an equivalent commitment to a high technology industrial policy with its dual implications for defense and civilian applications." What he seeks in the Western response to the Soviet Union is a coordinating mechanism stronger than the European NATO structure, weaker than political union. Rallo's thesis falls in the general category of "toward literature," pointing to a distant goal without offering the specifics of a plan for attainment. The author's ponderous writing style requires special diligence by the reader, an effort not always worthwhile, and hence sharply limits the book's value to the strategist or policymaker.

*Defending Europe* is a report on the proceedings of a conference on "European Security Requirements" and the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR) talks held at University College, University of Toronto, on 6-7 May 1985. Both NATO and Warsaw Pact countries were represented. If participants overbalanced toward positions favored by peace activists, the discussions were nevertheless lively and substantive, offering considerable thought to the effects of technology on policy and strategy. General Bernard Rogers' "Long Term Planning Guidelines for FOFA" (Follow-on Forces Attack) met close scrutiny, including critical Soviet views. The undesirability of spending heavily on

FOFA emerged quite strongly. Most participants saw the Strategic Defense Initiative as pure fantasy; the deployment of cruise missiles and Pershings to Europe was more opposed than supported. The MBFR talks raised considerable discussion, largely on the frustrations of both sides over incompatible approaches to problems having both political and military complexities. As generally happens when East and West sit down together in discussion, the hard questions are raised by both sides; and they remain unanswered by both sides.

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Ivanov, S.P. (chief author). *The Initial Period of War: A Soviet View*. Washington: U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1986. 311pp. \$9.50

The authors of this study state their purpose as "Based on the investigation and summary of data on the entry of the major capitalist nations and the Soviet Union into World War II—examining the more complex problems from the initial period of armed confrontations and in disclosing general trends in the preparation and conduct of initial operations, trends which were characteristic of World War II and have not lost their importance today." That task the authors certainly meet, albeit with characteristic historical license.

This study commences with a background of the evolution of initial